



PRESS RELEASE

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2005 SMALL GRAINS SUMMARY

WEST VIRGINIA - Winter wheat production for 2005 totaled 300,000 bushels, up 15 percent from 260,000 bushels in 2004. Harvested area for grain totaled 5,000 acres, unchanged from 2004. Area planted totaled 7,000 acres, down 12 percent from last year. The average yield of 60.0 bushels was up 8 bushels from the previous year. Estimates for oats, barley and rye are not included in the estimating program for West Virginia.

UNITED STATES - All wheat production totaled 2.10 billion bushels in 2005, down 3 percent from the last forecast and 3 percent below 2004. Grain area is 50.0 million acres, down fractionally from last year. The U.S. yield is 42.0 bushels per acre, 1.0 bushel below the August forecast and down 1.2 bushels from a year ago. The level of production and change from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.49 billion bushels, down slightly; other spring wheat, 504 million bushels, down 11 percent; Durum wheat, 100 million bushels, up 11 percent.

Oat production is estimated at 115 million bushels, 10 percent below the August 1 forecast and 1 percent below last year's 116 million bushels. The estimated yield is 63.1 bushels per acre, down 1.6 bushels from August and also down 1.6 bushels from a year ago. Compared with last year, yields declined in all States except for those in the Southeast, central and northern Great Plains, and the middle Mississippi Valley. Harvested area is 1.82 million acres, 8 percent below the August 1 forecast but 2 percent above last year.

Barley production is estimated at 212 million bushels, down 10 percent from the August 1 forecast and down 24 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at 64.8 bushels, is down 3.4 bushels from the previous forecast and 4.8 bushels below 2004. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 3.28 million acres, down 6 percent from August and 19 percent below a year ago. Area harvested for grain is the lowest since 1890, while production is the lowest since 1936. Area planted, area harvested, and production are down from last year in the 13 largest-producing States. However, the U.S. yield is the second highest on record and the yield for Colorado and Maryland are at record highs.

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